

Northwest Arkansas Oral History Project  
Helen Troy Bladon Interview Abstract  
February 14, 2019

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| Interviewee        | Helen Troy Bladon   |
| Year of birth      | 1927  |
| Place of birth     | Memphis, Shelby County, Tennessee   |
| Interviewer        | Beverley Helton   |
| Interview date     | 2019-02-14  |
| Interview location | Bladon home in Bella Vista, Benton County, Arkansas   |
| Keywords           | Bladon, Helen Troy<br>Helton, Beverley<br>Bella Vista, Benton County, Arkansas<br>Monticello, Drew County, Arkansas<br>Arkansas A&M University<br>First Presbyterian Church; Monticello, Drew County, Arkansas<br>Adagio (Dance)<br>Churches<br>Dance<br>Education<br>High school sports<br>Plantations   |
| Description        | <p>Born in 1927, Helen Troy Martin Bladon spent much of her young life in Monticello Arkansas with her parents and four sisters. Sundays were a special day filled with worship at the First Presbyterian Church, hiking, and family meals. Bladon describes herself as enjoying acrobatics and dance all her life. She remembers tap dancing in fourth grade and lots of time spent tumbling and doing cartwheels. When Arkansas A&amp;M needed a member for their adagio team, she became their 'adagio girl' while still in seventh grade. She was soon doing lifts and throws with its members.</p> <p>Following graduation from Texas State College for Women and NYU, she had planned to become a dancer in New York City. Instead she discovered her love of teaching modern dance and women's physical education with positions at the University of Nebraska and University of Iowa.</p> <p>Bladon married Doyle Bladon, a dentist. For many years they lived in Arizona with their two children. At retirement, Bladon and her husband moved back to Monticello. In 1968, the Bladons purchased a lot in Bella Vista, Arkansas. It provided their introduction to that area of Northwest Arkansas. In 2000, Bella Vista's access to quality medical service influenced Bladon and her husband to buy a home in Bella Vista. She continues to reside in it today (2019).</p> |
| Duration           | 17 minutes  |
| Audio File Format  | MP3   |

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| Images                | Yes  |
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| Questions or Comments | <a href="https://nwaoralhistory.org">https://nwaoralhistory.org</a>  |
| Interview sidebar     | In 1968, the Bladons purchased a lot in Bella Vista AR. It provided their introduction to that area of Northwest Arkansas. In 2000, Bella Vista's access to quality medical service influenced Bladon and her husband to buy a home in Bella Vista. She continues to reside in it today (2019). [00:13:23] |